

NOAA Fisheries Economics and Social Science Workshop

October 26-28, 2004

Identifying MSA Fishing Communities (MSA FCs)

**Susan Abbott-Jamieson, Office of Science & Technology, HQ
Silver Spring, MD.**

Susan.Abbott-Jamieson@noaa.gov

**Patricia M. Clay, NESC
Woods Hole, MA and Silver Spring, MD.**

Patricia.M.Clay@noaa.gov

The Process Unfolds




Photo: Palma Ingles



The Language

MSFCMA 16 U.S.C. 1851 Sec.301. (a)(8) National Standards for Fishery


Conservation and Management, states “Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act... take into account the importance of fishery resources to *fishing communities* in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (b) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts.”






The Language

The term **fishing community** means a community which is **substantially dependent** on or **substantially engaged** in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community. MSFCMA16 U.S.C. 1802 § 3(16)





MSA requires us to assess the
impact of proposed fishery
management actions on
entities it labels “fishing
communities”.

To do this....



- Must collect data at the community level on indicators of involvement in fisheries
- Evaluate their level of involvement in terms of “substantial dependence” or “substantial engagement”




The History



Photo:Palma Ingles, Dutch Harbor, Alaska



The History

- Systematic work to define the terms used in the legislation, identify data sets, compile information in analyzable format started in earnest following the April 2002 workshop held in Silver Spring.
 - New hires throughout 2002 staffed the regional Centers with at least one anthropologist or sociologist, as well as one of the regional offices.
- 

Next Steps



Photo: Palma Ingles

-


And More Steps



Photo: Palma Ingles



And More Steps

- Comments indicated more work needed on the key component, Chap 4 *Profiles and Indicators*
 - set forth a procedure for identifying communities with sufficient fishing-related activity to be classified as “substantially engaged” or “substantially dependent” to meet their social and economic needs.
- 

More detailed analysis of social impacts of proposed regulatory action required for MSA fishing communities, than for communities that may also have fishing or fishing related activity but at a lower scale than that of substantially engaged or substantially dependent.




Photo: Jennifer Sepez

Even More Steps





Even More Steps

- Established working group to rethink our earlier work
 - Revised procedure developed; narrative written describing it
 - Circulated to the field again for comment.
 - Revised document once again circulated for comment a month ago.
- 

What We've Learned



Photo: Palma Ingles

Profited from the experience gained during the past year and a half as the regions have begun the work to compile information on fishing communities.

Community profiling efforts are underway in every NMFS region.



Regional Efforts



Alaska Region



NW Region



SW Region

are collaborating



Pacific Islands

**each island a
community; profiling
sub-island areas of
fishing activity**



NE & SE

**developing new
information**

In Conclusion...

You will be hearing about some of the issues different regions are encountering as they proceed with their work from others in this session.





Photo: Jennifer Ise